revealed a considerable degree of foxing in both of the earlier series. Further, it should be noted that an immature from Cerro Neblina, aged by the author, is considerably paler ventrally, (and thus is like *parui)* than 2 adults collected at the same site by the author. Thus, this species is one in which comparisons must be made with specimens collected in comparable year periods, and of comparable age.

Acknowledgements: The author wishes to thank Ramon Avelado H. and William H. Phelps Jr for access to and the loan of specimens from the Coleccion Ornithologica Phelps in Caracas, Venezuela.

References:

Chapman, F. M. 1931. The upper zonal bird-life of Mts Roraima and Duida. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 63: 1–135.

Hellmayr, C. E. 1921. 12 neue Formen aus dem neotropischen Gebiet. *Anz. Orn. Ges. Bay.* 4: 25–32.

Phelps, W. H. & Phelps, W. H., Jr 1950. Seven new subspecies of Venezuelan birds. *Proc. Bio. Soc. Wash.* 63: 115–126.

Address: Dr R. W. Dickerman, Cornell University Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10021 and American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y. 10024, USA.

The first record of the Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata* for Thailand

by Jarujin Nabhitabhata & Nivesh Nadee

Received 9 October 1984

During a faunal survey of lowland semi-evergreen forest at Ban Ao Ko, Tha Chang District, Surat Thani Province, peninsular Thailand (9°20′N, 98°55′E), a specimen of the Brown-chested Flycatcher *Rhinomyias brunneata* was collected on 24 September 1983, the first record for Thailand. The bird was trapped in a mist net placed in the understorey of streamside, ''gallery'' forest at c. 50 m a.s.l. The specimen (No. TNRC 53–5091) was deposited in the National Reference Collection in the Ecological Research Division of the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, Bangkok.

A large, robust flycatcher with a dark brown breast band, *R. brunneata* may be distinguished from the similar Fulvous-breasted Flycatcher *R. olivacea* and the Grey-chested Flycatcher *R. umbratilis,* both of which are residents in peninsular Thailand, by its yellowish, instead of dark, lower mandible. Identification was confirmed by comparison with a specimen of *R. brunneata* collected from Mt Brinchang, Malaysia by H. E. McClure.

Rhinomyias brunneata breeds ''from S. Kiangsu, S. Honan and Chekiang through Fukien and Kiangsi to Kwangtung'' in SE China (Meyer de Schauensee 1984) and winters in West Malaysia and possibly Sumatra (Medway & Wells 1976). It is the only one of the eight *Rhinomyias* spp. which is known to be migratory (Vaurie 1952).

Acknowledgements: We wish to thank Philip Round who made the original identification and who helpfully criticised the draft of this manuscript and Dr Niphan Ratanaworabhan, Director, Ecological Research Division, for her constant help and encouragement.

References:
Medway, Lord & Wells, D.R. 1976. *The Birds of the Malay Peninsula.* Vol. 5. Witherby.
Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1984. *The Birds of China.* Oxford University Press.
Vaurie, C. 1952. A review of the bird genus *Rhinomyias* (Muscicapini). *Am. Mus. Novit.* No. 1570.

Address: Jarujin Nabhitabhata & Nivesh Nadee, Ecological Research Division, TISTR, 196 Phaholyothin Road, Bangkok 10900, Thailand.

The sympatry of night herons in Borneo

by Frederick H. Sheldon and Manuel Marin A.

Received 19 October 1984

Although suspected for almost a century, breeding of the Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* in Borneo was not confirmed until the mid-1970s, when J. Q. Phillipps discovered a breeding colony at Likas in Sabah, East Malaysia (Smythies 1981). Th status of this night heron on the island is of interest because the Rufous Night Heron and the Black-crowned Night Heron *N. nycticorax,* a well-known resident of Borneo, are thought to constitute a superspecies based on a virtually allopatric distribution (Bock 1956).

N. caledonicus and *N. nycticorax* in fact come into contact on some islands in SE Asia and Wallacea in addition to Borneo, and the extent and significance of their range overlap has been debated. In general, the Philippines, Sulawesi, and the Lesser Sundas form the western extreme of the range of *N. caledonicus;* and Java and Borneo form the eastern extreme for *N. nycticorax.* White (1973) argued that the 2 species are virtually allopatric. He considered that the distributional data are confounded because of wintering migrant *N. nycticorax* (especially in the Philippines), vagrant *N. caledonicus* in north Borneo, and vague, 19th century sympatric breeding records from Sulawesi. Hoogerwerf (1936, 1966) studied a situation in Java similar to that in Borneo, namely one in which *N. caledonicus* apparently had come recently in contact with a large established population of *N. nycticorax.* He found (1936) that the few nests of *N. caledonicus* occurring in Javan heronries were intermingled with those of *N. nycticorax,* rather than clumped in a separate sub-colony. Hoogerwerf thought the 2 species mated selectively in east Java, but he suspected mixed mating in west Java based on his own observations of nests and on the identification of one hybrid individual in a zoo and 4 in the field (1966). Hubbard (1976), reporting on specimens and field notes from a 1973 Luzon collection, found evidence of summering *N. nycticorax* in the otherwise *N. caledonicus*-dominated Philippines. He also described a possible *nycticorax-caledonicus* hybrid among the specimens.

In 1983, as members of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology expedition to Sabah, we visited the Borneo site where the 2 night heron species were breeding (it is also used for roosting) to study the interaction between these 2 species, particularly whether they hybridize or mate selectively, with a view to providing clues to their derivation and radiation. We paid 6 visits to Likas Swamp near Kota Kinabalu, Sabah (5°59′N, 116°06′E), 18 May–15 June 1983. Likas is a stagnant, sewage-filled mangrove swamp covering one km² and is cut off from the sea by rapidly encroaching suburban development.